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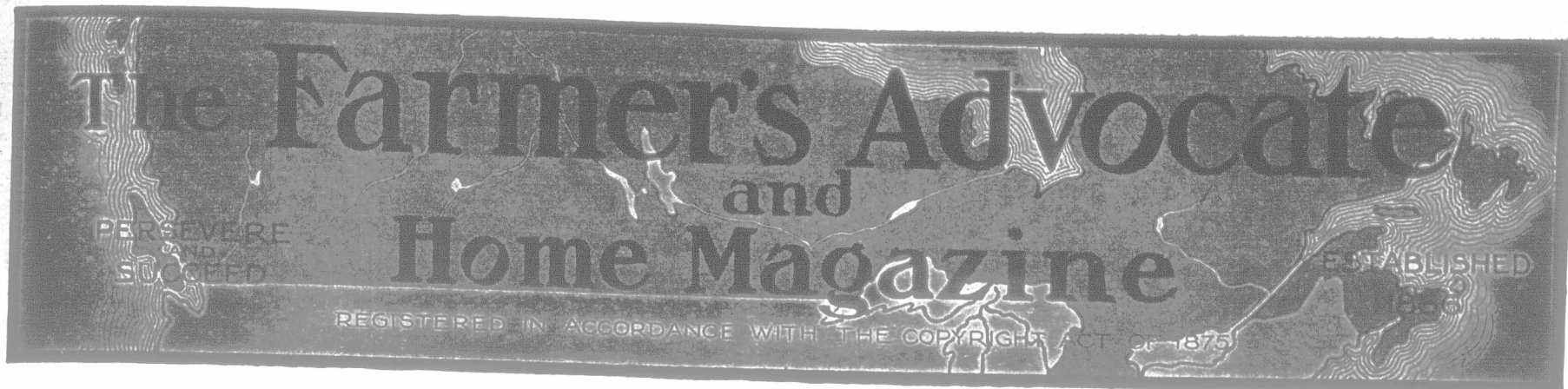
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VOL. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, DECEMBER 30, 1915.

No. 1214

EDITORIAL.

Prepare to put in ice.

You cannot fatten stock without feed.

If you are going to sell a horse next spring, fit him first.

There is time now to use the fanning mill on the seed grain.

Keep the store cattle growing. No money is made by letting young stock stand still.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE wishes all its readers A Bright and Prosperous Year, 1916.

Remember, always, the soldiers at the front. Anything which makes for their comfort will aid the Allies to win the war.

Did you save the Christmas Number? The number of congratulatory messages arriving at this office indicates that it was worth saving.

There are no hard and fast rules for winter feeding. The individuality of the animal and the capability of the feeder are of prime importance.

If there is no Farmer's Club or Literary Society in your district, this is a good time to organize. Discussion is a fine seed-bed for thought and action.

Horned cattle and buck lambs are not market toppers. Stop the horns on the calves with caustic potash and unsex all lambs before two weeks of age.

The market demand is for baby beef and butchers' cattle well finished. Heavy cattle are not wanted. Feed the cattle off at an earlier age and make the greatest profit.

There will be money in the laying hen. If Canada produces enough good eggs and markets them in first-class condition, there is a fine opportunity to establish a strong export trade with Britain.

It is said that a French Government Commission is going to visit Canada to arrange for the purchase of war material in this country. They might, if permitted, take a few of the farmers' surplus horses.

It is already intimated that the new regime in China is not going to prove popular, and the man who made it possible for the present ruler to become a great man may upset his monarchical aspirations.

You have finished threshing before this. If the grain did not turn out as well as you thought it should have done, perhaps it would pay to change the variety. There is no use working with inferior yielders.

"Produce! Prepare! Grade! Market! Advertise!" These are the slogans which the Canadian farmer and the Canadian dealer in farm products must pay attention to if Canada is to establish her goods as they should be established in the markets of the world.

This is Canada's opportunity, we are told. Here's hoping that the Canadian farmer takes full advantage of it and gets his just share of the profits arising from it. Agriculture needs big men as representatives in parliament, on Commissions, and in the general affairs which go to make farming profitable or otherwise.

Agriculture's Mainstay.

Live stock is the mainstay of all agriculture. We were somewhat surprised in reading a number of reminiscences of the early times in Western Canada to find that in most of the cases where a man had made good he had attributed his success, even in the beginning, to the keeping of live stock. The great West has in time past been generally considered, and rightly so, a grain growing country, but in these reminiscences published in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE and Home Journal of Winnipeg, we find that through the trials of the early days, when the wheat failed, in one case as often as seven times out of nine due to drouth or frost, live stock saved the settler and made it possible for him to live on his land and develop the country, making money for himself as well. When the wheat was frosted, a man with a few pigs, a few cattle and some poultry, was able to go through the winter without the hardship experienced by the settler who attempted to farm with wheat alone. It was not generally conceded in those days that live stock was necessary, and no doubt failures were many because the settlers had not learned the lesson that mixed farming paid. In the East mixed farming was also practised in the beginning. The cow and the hens and the pigs came with the early settlers, and it is largely due to the live-stock branch of agriculture that farming has attained whatever success it has in Canada, and more and more as time goes on and the fertility of the land requires replenishing will live stock be recognized as a first principle in all our farming operations, and more and more will it be recognized that good live stock is more profitable than scrubs.

Unfair to the Farmer.

A short time ago particular stress was laid upon certain statements made by the Toronto Humane Society to the effect that farmers maltreat their animals. Several cases of neglect and the working of lame horses were brought to the attention of the Society, and a prominent "J.P." expressed it as his opinion that these cases were typical of conditions to be found too commonly in the rural districts, and declared that some of the very worst cases of cruelty were to be found on the farms. We are not upholding any man be he farmer, teamster, stable-boy, or what not, for abusing or exercising cruelty upon any animals under his charge, but we do object when a city man makes the statement that cruelties such as working horses which are very badly crippled, starving them, moving away from deserted farms, leaving a horse or horses to rustle for themselves and otherwise subjecting the animal to such treatment that the bones wear through the skin, is typical of conditions commonly found on Canadian farms. We venture to say that none of the cases cited by the Humane Society were found on real farms, but were far more likely located in some of the shack-town area around Toronto or where some mere squatter who had collected a few dollars thought he could farm, and had invested in a few acres of vacant lots and lost his money through lack of knowledge of what was necessary to make a living from the land.

From our experience, both in the country and in the cities, we have not seen as much abuse of animals on the farms as on the city streets. Real farmers are good teamsters, know how to handle horses and know how to feed stock, and, knowing that in their live stock they have the source of greatest profit and that abuse can in no way pay them, and also having a heart, they give their animals fair treatment and should not be placed in the light of being brutal and cruel by any association, particularly one which operates in the city and knows very little of the conditions on Ontario's well-regulated farms.

Apply Manure in Winter.

The season is again here when the average farm in the East is turning out a fair quantity of farm fertilizer daily, and with it comes the question whether or not this barnyard manure should be applied to the land as made, or piled in the yard or manure-shed to rot ready for application next spring before the corn or root ground is prepared for the crop. We have heard a good many discussions of this question and we have come to the conclusion that one year with another, provided the soil is at all level so that too much is not lost in the spring run-off, it is more profitable to apply in the winter, as made. In the first place, the manure goes a great deal farther, and we believe this is a good thing, because the average man applies his farmyard manure to the soil in altogether too heavy coats. Smaller quantities at more frequent intervals would surely be a better practice than applying more manure at a time than the next two or three crops will require, thus making conditions more favorable for leaching and loss. The labor question is going to be more acute next summer than it has ever been in Canada. Farm laborers will be in khaki and farmers will be forced to manage well, otherwise their work will lag. The manure can be put out through the winter at the slack season, saving time next summer, and, besides this, on most soils green manure is more valuable than manure which has been well rotted. Of course, well-rotted manure should be applied in intensive agriculture or vegetable gardening, but for the average farm, where manuring is done on a large scale, the long, strawy article applied direct from the stable is more valuable than the shorter, well-rotted manure. In putting the manure straight from the stable to the field extra handling is avoided and much loss through bad methods of saving is prevented. The man who has not a suitable manure shed where he can keep his manure covered until applied generally loses by attempting to pile it in the yard and haul it in the spring. Where it must be piled it should be kept up in a neat, well-tramped, solid heap, away from the eaves and preferably the manure from all classes of animals should be mixed together. But for this winter we would recommend drawing to the field as made and spreading on the snow. We do not favor piling out in heaps in the winter. We tried that last year, but this year are taking it from the barn as made and are spreading it on the snow. The heap method may be all right, but spreading now saves the work of spreading in the spring, which is much more difficult to accomplish as the manure stays frozen in these small heaps quite late in the spring, holds the snow and frost under them, and by the time the frost is out so it can be spread it is so dried out that it is shook apart with difficulty. We believe that this year it is more important than ever that most of the manure should go to the field during the winter.

Efficiency in the Farm Factory.

A crop rotation system has been defined as the adoption of a fixed system of farm crops to be grown successively on the same soil at regular intervals. It is a matter of regret that more of our farmers have not adopted a fixed cropping system with particular stress placed upon a complete change of crop in as few years as possible. A short crop rotation simply means the application of business efficiency in the farm factory, which means not only the field, but in the stable. Short rotations mean a smaller acreage of cereals, a greater area of hoed crops, more clover and pasture, and consequently more live stock and a larger amount of manure to apply to the land, which, summed up, means bigger yields from the farm both in crop and financial returns. And with all this the farm should be getting cleaner all the time because a short rotation, with an increased